a one-month extension of time and check no. 7262 appropriate in amount to cover the corresponding fee are also enclosed.

## REMARKS

In order to be responsive to the election or restriction requirement set forth in the Office Action, applicants hereby elect the claims of invention II, that is, claims 32-40 and 42-67.

The election is made with traverse, for the following reasons: The key aspects of claims 32-40 and 42-67, are related to the key aspects of claims 41, 68, and 69. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 32-69, though different in scope, are nonetheless sufficiently similar to merit examination in the same application, as they share dominant elements. Examination of all claims 32-69 in the same application would not pose a serious burden under M.P.E.P. § 803 because there is commonality of dominant elements between the claims of inventions I and II. In a balance of the equities, the burden and cost to applicants of prosecuting separate applications to inventions having common dominant elements appears to outweigh the burden on the Examiner to search and examine the present application as a unitary invention. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the election or restriction requirement be withdrawn.
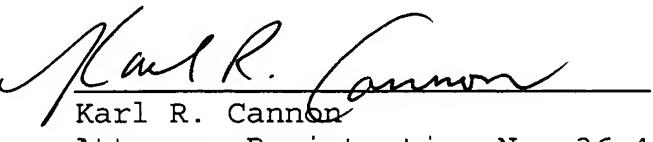
In view of the foregoing, applicants believe that claims 32-69 are all allowable and the same is respectfully requested. If any

impediment to the allowance of these claims remains after entry of this Response, and such impediment could be alleviated during a telephone interview, the Examiner is invited to initiate the same.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee or to credit any overpayment in connection with this Response to Deposit Account No. 50-0836.

DATED this ____2____ day of __February__, 2004.

Respectfully submitted,

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